

A  
**REVIEW**  
 OF THE  
**STATE**  
 OF THE  
**BRITISH NATION.**

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Thursday, October 9. 1797.

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**A**ND how now are we to prove this Negative, that the Notion spread abroad in the World of our being dejected and discourag'd, is fictitious, and only rais'd by those that would have it be so——Let us divide this Enquiry a little, and examine the Particulars.

*First*, We are not discouraged abroad.  
*Secondly*, We are not discouraged at home.

*First Abroad*. I shall readily acknowledge, we are disappointed abroad, that things have not fallen out according to our Expectation, no not our reasonable Expectations; for I know, some have very little Reason for their Expectations———I call reasonable Expectations such as these———We might very reasonably have expected,

the Emperor, upon the earnest Solicitation of so many of his Friends, and whose Zeal for his Service he could have no Reason to question, would have delay'd or deferr'd his Expedition unto *Naples*, especially when so promising an Enterprize, as that of *Toulon*, was upon the Anvil, and which required all the Power, and all the Strength, the whole Empire and its Allies could have drawn together; and the Misfortune of which I can lay to nothing so directly, as the Want of Force, and the Want of being under the Walls of it sooner; both which the laying that Enterprize aside would have prevented. 2. We might very reasonably have expected to have kept our Footing in *Spain*, or at least not to have receiv'd a Blow so fatal to all our Affairs there, as that of the Battle of *Almança*, which of the

the Forces had kept together, as one Part desir'd, or entirely separated, as the other Part desir'd, might very easily have been done. 3. We might very reasonably have expected, that the *Germans* would not have been so buffoon'd, as they have been on the *Rhine*; that they would not have been frighted out of the Lines of *Stolbessen*, without a Stroke striking, and have fled from Post to Pillar ever since, hunted like a Partridge upon the Mountains by the *French*, and be in no Condition to prevent the ravaging their Country from the *Main* to the *Danube*, and thence to the Mountains of *Tyrol*—— I confess, 'tis a dull Story to laugh at, but who can help it; when they hear the *Germans* boast of taking the Castle of *Homburge* in the black Forrest, and thereby securing the Passes on that side, about 14 Days after Monsieur *Vivans* with 4000 Horse had lay'd all *Suabia* under Contributions, even to the Frontiers of *Bavaria*, and being come home again, had lodg'd his Cabs and his Hostages in Fort *Kiehl* over against *Strasburgh*; but this is, the *German* Way of doing Business, and we are to expect no better, till new Measures are taken among them, which we hope is now at hand.

These, I say, were some of our reasonable Expectations, and it is with no Difficulty that I own, we are disappointed in these—— But it does no ways follow from thence, that we are discourag'd or dejected, I mean abroad; and I call it, *WE*, that is, *WE* as a Confederacy, *WE* the Allies; and that it is not so, is plain from the new Measures now taken there, and the committing the Command of the Imperial Army to the Elector of *Hannover*—— Or to speak more expressively, from his Accepting it.

The Elector of *Hannover* is not a Prince of so little discerning, nor so little cautious of his own Reputation in the Matter of Command, as to go into the Field without Probabilities; he has no need to play a desperate Game, nor is he so rash a Prince, or so destitute of Council, as not to know his own Interest—— Shall I go farther? He is not a Prince so unfit for the great Art of Government, which attends him here;

you have not a Fool in Store to reign over you, he is a Prince generally supposed to understand the several Interests, Strengths, and Extents of the Power of *Europe*, as well as any Prince in *Europe*; and we may thence reasonably argue, he would not accept the Charge of General over the Imperial Armies, if the Case was desperate; nay, if he were not well assur'd, it not only could, but shall certainly be retriev'd and recover'd.

At least this is fair arguing, and is very well to my Purpose; it is a certain Sign, the Allies are not discourag'd, are under no Dejections, when they part with a Person of so much Value to them, and in whom this Nation especially has so much Concern.

If it were a desperate Case; if it were a lost Cause; if there was no Hopes of recovering things again, they must have very little Respect for the House of *Hannover*, and for the Person of the Elector in particular, and least of all for *England*, that would expose that Prince to the Discouragements and Disadvantages, which constantly attend such Cases. It is therefore to me a Token, that there are not Hopes only, but a certain Prospect of retrieving the miserable Posture of the Empires Affairs on that side; or else, neither would the Confederates have shown so little Concern for that Prince, as to venture him in it, or himself have shewn so little Judgment as to accept of it.

I could give farther Arguments to prove the Satisfaction the Confederates yet have, in the Success of the War, and one more is the Marriage of the Princess of *Wolfenbuttel* with King *Charles III.* perhaps it will be said, that Part of the Affairs of the World go always on in their own Course, let the War go which way it will: But on the other hand, it would have something so ridiculous in it, to make a Pompous Marriage of a Princess of her Quality, and have such Preparations made for the Wedding, suiting the Character of both, and in the Terms of a King and Queen of *Spain*: I say, it would have something so ridiculous in it, that no Prince in the World would expose himself to, if he was not well assur'd,



or in full Expectation of finishing happily the War before him, notwithstanding all the Disappointments of this Summers Campaign.

2. I come now to our Discouragements at *Home*; and I shall put the Question here to our *Democritan* Gentlemen, that are always laughing at their Countries Disasters, and let them answer it in what Terms they please. Pray, Gentlemen, in what do our Dejections and Discouragements appear? I know, some of these Phlegmatick People are Stock-Jobbers; pray, Gentlemen, how much is Stock fallen upon these Discouragements? It was always a Test of the rising and falling of Parties in *England*, and was particularly remarkable in the Case of the Occasional Bill, that as that fell or advanc'd in its Prospect, the Stocks and publick Credits would rise and fall, and 'twas a true Test of the Nations Opinion in that Bill—

When it was going forward, and the *Tories* in Hopes, Stock always fell, publick Credit run low, and the Discouragements of the People appear'd in their Backwardness to part with their Money on the Adventures of the State, expecting we would run into Extravagancy, and fall into fatal Breaches among one another. And on the other hand, when the Bill run backward, and receiv'd any Slur; when it was lost in the House of *Lords*, and Tacking banter'd by its own Party in the *Commons*, what was the Case, *Stocks run high*, every thing sold well? And this by the Way is a good Proof, that the Money and the Trade, generally speaking, lyes among the *Whigs*; but that by the by,

To come to the same Trial, pray, Gentlemen, examine this Case, and tell us, since the Battle at *Almanza*, or the Taking the Lines of *Solbassen*, nay, since the Disappointment at *Toulon*, how much is the Price of your Stock fallen? How much is the publick Credit sunk? —Will you sell any of your Annuities, whose Foundation is the Government, and the Foundation of our Government depends much upon this War? —Will you sell any of the Annuities, I say, to a little Loss? Will you take Exchequer-Bills without Interest, and Bank-

sell'd Bills at 3 l. per Cent. This would never be, if we were dejected and under Discouragements at the War.

Publick Disasters always affect publick Credit; and if the *French* should get the better of us, we shall have Reason to let fall the high Rate of things; no Question, the Rate of publick Funds cannot come up to the *Old East-India Company's* *Antigua*,

*That Stock should fall,  
When Sales surmount the Coast,  
And rise again  
When Ships are lost.*

It is true, the Funds of our Banks, Exchequer Notes, Annuities, &c. are so well settled, that no Revolution can easily hurt them, and whatever Disaster should befall *England*, they would be secure: But it is very certain, that should we suffer any Capital Disaster in the War; should we have our Armies or our Fleets defeated, as the *French* have had; should we come to be under real and just Apprehensions of a powerful Descent upon us, as they were last Year; in such a Case, all the advanc'd Prices, all the imaginary Value, all the jobbing Excesses of our Funds and Stocks, like the Rust upon Iron, would scale off and be gone; nothing would stand but the Solid, the Capital, the Foundation, which cannot be hurt.

If this does not yet happen, where then is the Discouragement; where are these Plague Tokens, that threaten the sudden Death of the State? It cannot be, 'tis all Chymetical, an empty Notion, and no more—'Tis indeed, what the honest Gentlemen *Jacobites* would have; they would have us mourn; that they may laugh; they would have the Nation sigh, that they may sing; they would have us be dejected, that they may insult: We do not know indeed, what GOD, for the Nations Sins, may bring upon us; but for the present, we can thank Heaven, they are mistaken; they neither can prove, the Nation is dejected, nor show us a Reason, why they should be so.



## MISCELLANEA.

## Mr. REVIEW,

**I**N one of your late Reviews, Dated September 6. You seem to answer the Rehearsal's Objection very faintly.—He says, the Scots Presbyterians will pull down the Church of England, if possible; that 'tis their Principle, he proves by an Address of theirs to the Parliament against the Treaty, wherein they profess it; and that if they have Opportunity, those Principles will naturally lead them to it, is very just arguing; pray, how will you answer that?—Your saying these People are Cameronians, and disown'd by the Kirk of Scotland, is a weak Argument; for they are a great People, and may either do it without the Kirk, or the Kirk may join with them, or they may be oblig'd by them to join in this Action; and where are we then, is it safe to unite with such People?

This is a nice Gentleman indeed.—The Kirk of Scotland may be conquer'd by the Cameronians, Ergo, the Church of England must not unite with the Kirk of Scotland.—For Answer to this Gentleman, I must crave Leave to say to him by Way of Inspiration.

1. Sir, I perceive, you do not understand the Union.
2. You know very little of the *Cameronians*.
3. You do not see into the unfair Behaviour of the *Rehearsal*.

Of all which, I shall take the Liberty to speak a little in my next, and will undertake, you shall acknowledge the two first, and blush in Behalf of the last.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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